

The tarsus is slender and considerably longer than the middle toe with the claw, whereas in *Melanocharis* the tarsus is only a little longer than the middle toe with claw. Otherwise the form of the feet and legs agree, the tarsus being also caligated in the new genus.

The species I propose to call

PRISTORHAMPHUS VERSTERI, sp. nov.

Whole upper surface, including sides of the head and neck, dull olive-green; quills and tail-feathers brownish black, margined on the outer web narrowly with a brighter, more yellowish olive-green; the external tail-feather on the inner web with a conspicuous large white median spot, which is less extended on the second tail-feather; remiges margined on the basal portion of the inner web narrowly with whitish; chin, throat, and remainder of underparts dull olive-grey, the sides of the breast washed with greenish olive-grey; the middle of the lower breast and vent changing into pale yellowish white; lower wing-coverts and the long axillary feathers silky white, washed with pale yellow; bill and feet black.

	Long.		rectr.		culm.	tars.	dig. int.	
	tot. millim.	alk. millim.	intern. millim.	extern. millim.			incl. ung. millim.	
c. 130	62	57	47	10	23	15	<i>Pristorhamphus</i> .	
c. 115	64	43	41	11	16	13	♂ <i>Melanocharis</i> .	
c. 112	62	40	38	10	15	13	♀ „	

The collection contains only two specimens of the bird, which are precisely alike.

As they correspond in colour exactly with the female of *Melanocharis nigra*, it may be supposed that they do not exhibit the dress of the old male, which may probably turn out to be very different in coloration. But however this may be, this species will be always distinguishable by the white spot on the inner web of the two external tail-feathers, even without regard to the strongly marked generic differences.

I have great pleasure in naming this new and interesting although modestly coloured bird after my dear friend Mr. F. A. Verster, the meritorious Administrator of the Rijks Museum at Leiden, whose name deserves to be preserved in science and in the galleries of the National Museum of Holland.

5. Characters of six new Polynesian Birds in the Museum Godeffroy at Hamburg. By OTTO FINSCH, Ph.D., C.M.Z.S.

[Received November 8, 1875.]

Besides a bird from the Feejees, which has been collected and forwarded by Mr. Theodor Kleinschmidt, of Nai-Koro, Ovalau, and which proves to be new, I have the pleasure of characterizing five new species of birds from Ponape (or Puynipet), Seniavin group,

Eastern Carolines. Mr. Kubary, the well-known Godeffroyian traveller, has spent more than one year in exploring this island; but unfortunately all his collections were lost by the wreck of the ship.

The birds saved from this accident are referable to about nineteen species, of which no less than five are undescribed. An extended paper on the birds of Ponape will appear in the 'Journal of the Museum Godeffroy,' forming the second part of my "Ornithology of the Pacific Islands." Meanwhile I am anxious to publish the characters of the new species, which may stand as follows.

1. *PETROICA KLEINSCHMIDTI*, sp. nov.

Upper surface dark brown; sides of head and neck paler; middle of chin and throat whitish; crop and breast light red, remainder of underparts white; quills black-brown on the inner web, with a white cross mark commencing from the fourth quill; the last secondary is margined externally with rusty brown; coverts of the secondaries and upper wing-coverts margined at the end narrowly but distinctly with rusty brown; tail-feathers brownish black, the outermost on the apical half externally white, the second tail-feather only with a narrow white external margin and tip. Bill brownish black; feet brownish.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	culm.	tars.
$3\frac{3}{4}''$	2'' 1'''	15'''	c. 4'''	$7\frac{1}{2}'''$

Hab. Feejee Islands, Tai-Levu or Viti-Levu (*Kleinschmidt*).

Obs. Differs from *P. pusilla*, Peale, from the Navigators', in lacking the white front and large white mark on the wing-coverts.

2. *ZOSTEROPS PONAPENSIS*, sp. nov.

Upper parts dark olive-brown, wings and tail darker, very narrowly margined externally with lighter brown; lores, sides of head and underparts brownish ashy, the flanks distinctly brownish; a narrow greyish eye-ring; feathers of front with narrow pale shafts. Bill blackish; feet dark plumbeous.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	rostr.	tars.
$3\frac{1}{2}''$	2'' 1'''	16'''	4'''	8'''

Hab. Ponape, Seniavin group (*Kubary*).

Allied to *Z. (Tephras) finschi*, Hartl., but smaller, and the underparts distinct brownish ashy.

3. *VOLVOCIVORA INSPERATA*, sp. nov.

Male like that of *V. monacha*, H. and F., but without black on the chin and throat, the whole under surface slate-grey; no distinct white margins on the inner web of the primaries, and the outer tail-feathers broadly pointed with slate-grey.

Female totally different from that of *V. monacha*. Head above, nape, and lores brownish grey; remainder of upper parts dark maroon-brown; rump, upper tail-coverts, and the whole under surface

bright dark cinnamon-rufous; quills brownish black, narrowly margined externally with rufous brown; two middle tail-feathers dark rufous brown, remainder brownish black with broad cinnamon-rufous tips.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	culm.	tars.
c. 7''	4''	3''	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ '''	11'''

Hab. Ponape, Seniavin group (*Kubary*).

4. MYIAGRA PLUTO, sp. nov.

Uniform black, with greenish metallic reflections, especially on the head; bill and feet black. Female resembling the male; but the chin and throat are dark brown.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	culm. millim.	latit. rostr. millim.	tars.
5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ''	3''	2'' 8'''	13	8	8'''

Hab. Ponape, Seniavin group (*Kubary*).

5. RHIPIDURA KUBARYI, sp. nov.

Upper parts dark sooty brown; margin of front lores, cheeks, and ear-coverts brownish black; a white superciliary stripe, and a white stripe from the angle of chin below the cheeks to the ear-region; throat black; crop black, with white apical margins, giving these parts a squamated appearance; vent, anal region and under tail-coverts white; sides and lower wing-coverts slate-grey; tail-feathers brownish black, broadly tipped with white. Bill and feet black.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	culm. millim.	tars. millim.
c. 6''	2'' 6'''	3''	11	20

Hab. Ponape, Seniavin group (*Kubary*).

6. APLONIS PELZELNI, sp. nov.

Obscure sooty brown; head above somewhat darker, lores and front changing into sooty black; wings, tail, upper and lower tail-coverts umber-brown, a good deal lighter than the remaining plumage. Bill and feet black.

Long.	alæ.	caud.	culm.	tars.
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ''	3'' 10'''	2'' 4'''	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ '''	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ '''

Hab. Ponape, Seniavin group (*Kubary*).

6. Notes on the Zoology of Rodriguez.

By J. CALDWELL, C.M.Z.S.

[Received November 8, 1875.]

Having been dispatched on special duty to the Island of Rodriguez immediately after the hurricane-season this year, I was detained nearly three months upon the island, and had an opportunity of making a few notes which may prove interesting, pending more de-